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THE WARD 2 WEEKLY

Tucson Rodeo: Honoring Tucson's Roots, Tradition BY: Councilman Cunningham



Paul Cunningham,
Councilman, Ward 2

Everyone who grew up here in the Old Pueblo knows that there is one event held each year that might symbolize the history and culture of our city better than any other. By tradition, the event is called Fiesta de los Vaqueros. Many of us know it by its more common name, the Tucson Rodeo.

The Tucson Rodeo is now in its 87th year. Nearly

nine decades after its start, however, little has been sacrificed in preserving the essence of this great Tucson tradition.

What started as a fairly modest event has grown to become one of the top 25 rodeos in the country and has become the second largest outdoor rodeo nationwide.

The success of this event is a direct result of the hard work contributed by those that make it possible, and the deep respect and love that we Tucsonans feel for our city and its rich traditions. Don't let this year be any different. Put on your boots and head to the Tucson Rodeo. You'll feel a little more Tucsonan by the time you leave.

Painted Hills and the City of Tucson's Water Policy: Why You Should Care

In 2009 the Mayor and Council took a historic step in regards to how, who and where the City will add new water connections.

Unlike the vast majority of water providers in Arizona, Tucson Water had no service area and pretty much gave water to anyone who asked for it. This is why we have Tucson Water customers who live outside the City limits all the way to Marana.

The change in water policy began in 2007 with the joint City/County water and wastewater study. The volunteer citizens committee

spent more than 2 years together, held countless meetings, hearings and gathered comments from the public. The approval of this study led the way for the adoption of the new policy.

Enter Painted Hills....a pristine piece of Sonoran desert with saguaro studded hills in the Tucson Mountains, outside of the city limits. Twice, Pima County voters approved the purchase of Painted Hills. At the time, the land was assessed at a value around \$4 million. The private owners sold the land for close to \$27 million to a group representing the Dallas

Firefighters Pension fund (TBD). TBD planned on building luxury homes as an investment for the fund.

Meanwhile the housing bubble burst, the construction was put on hold, and the City adopted its new water boundaries that did not include the Painted Hills.

TBD (who represents the Dallas pension fund) and Lewis and Roca (their local representatives) then sued the City for water service. They lost in court twice, reaffirming the City of Tucson's right to decide where it will serve

water.

TODAY...TBD and Lewis and Roca have worked with State Representative David Stevens from Sierra Vista to push language in the State Legislature that would take away Tucson's right to decide its own water policy and force the City to serve water so Painted Hills can be developed.

While the fate of Painted Hills certainly hangs in the balance, what's at stake is much larger: the ability of the City of Tucson to control our water supply.



SATURDAY: 5 EVENTS MARK SPORTS FAN DREAM DAY By: STAFF

If you are a sports fan who resides in Tucson, Christmas is coming early to the Old Pueblo. This Saturday marks a confluence of sporting entertainment more rare and sublime than nearly any previous single day in the history of our great city.

Fans may choose from a veritable cornucopia of athletic entertainment.

Gallop on over to the Rillito Downs Racetrack and bet the ponies. Head to McKale and cheer the Wildcats as they take it to our arch-rivals, the UCLA Bruins. Not in the mood to watch UCLA lose? Zip on down to Kino Sports Complex and watch our own FC Tucson battle it out against three other teams (includes David Beckham

and the LA Galaxy) in the premier desert soccer tournament nationwide. If you still haven't had your fill, catch some bull riding at the Tucson Rodeo and follow it up with some world-class championship golf at the Accenture Match Play Championships at the Ritz Carlton in Oro Valley! There is something for everyone!!

200+ ATTEND "BAG IT" SCREENING



We were pleased to see more than 200 attendees at the Sierra Club's screening of the "Bag It" documentary, more than 150 of whom turned in postcards for the Mayor and Council thanking them for placing the plastic bag issue on the agenda. **Councilman Cunningham**

ham would like to thank the offices of the **Mayor** and **Congressman Grijalva** for sending representatives to the screening as well as the **Sierra Club** and **the Loft** for sponsoring and hosting the event. A special thank you to Ward 2 Intern **Maddy Bynes** for all of her hard

work and research on the issue. **If you would like to schedule a screening for your own group**, contact Sierra Club Recycling Chair Gabe Wigtil at 520.203.4623

To watch the movie trailer, visit bagitmovie.com/trailer

It's That Time of Year: Tucson Rodeo in the Old Pueblo



This weekend marks the return of one of Tucson's most cherished traditions. On Saturday, February 18, the Old Pueblo will kick off its 87th Annual Fiesta de Los Vaqueros, also known as the Tucson Rodeo. Whether you are a native

Tucsonan, a migratory snowbird or just lucky enough to be here during Rodeo Season, we want to encourage all to take part in this important week-long Tucson tradition. Events include bull riding, barrel racing, mut-

ton busting and the World Famous Rodeo Parade. Festivities conclude on the 28th of this month, so be sure to purchase your \$12 ticket soon. Things don't get more Tucsonan than this, folks!

Contact: 741-2233

Plastic Bags: Bad for Everybody By: Maddy Bynes

I am Maddy Bynes, a senior at Empire High School, an active participant in both the Tucson Student Council and the greater Arizona Association of Student Councils (AASC) Region. Last fall I began an internship at Councilman Cunningham's office and I have worked part time since fall 2011. While here at the Council office I have learned a lot about dealing with many of the issues that impact our Tucson community. When I was asked to start researching the impact single-use disposable plastic bags, I did not really care that much about them. I thought, "well its only a small bag." But as I continued my

research I discovered how single-use plastic bags, and plastic waste in general pose dangers to animal populations, our water supply, and humans – on a global level. I learned there is an island in the middle of the ocean the size of Texas, ninety percent of which is floating bits of plastic. The Tucson region alone uses 182 million plastic bags each year. Not only do single-use disposable plastics pollute the environment, the plastics they're comprised of are photo-degradable – meaning that when exposed to UV light, they break down into smaller particles and toxins. I also discovered plastic has both

of the chemicals, BPH and Polyethylene. In other words, as plastic breaks down in our landfills, lakes, rivers and oceans, it releases carcinogens and other toxins known to be a factor in obesity, ADD, diabetes, and the change in both men's and women's hormones. It is my hope that through Mayor and Council leadership we as Tucsonans can increase our awareness of the environmental impact single-use disposable plastics have on our community and find ways to work together to reduce our consumption on plastic.

SHRED-IT Event Will Return to Ward 2 STAFF

The Ward 2 Office at Eastside City Hall continues to take calls regarding the scheduling of our next "Shred-It" document shredding event. We are happy to announce that another event is already being planned and will likely occur soon after tax day

(April 15). Save your tax returns and any other unwanted or sensitive documentation and tune in to the Ward 2 Weekly for more details on this popular event. We look forward to helping you secure your identity and sensitive materiel with

TWO SHREDDING TRUCKS in April. We will be asking all who bring more than one average sized box to also contribute a \$10 donation to the Community Food Bank or its equivalent in canned goods.



Major League Soccer is Back In Town! by: STAFF

Major League Soccer will be returning to the Old Pueblo in February!

On 22 February, 2012, Tucson hosted the Desert Diamond Cup at the Kino Sports Complex. Featuring fan-favorite teams from all over the United states,

the Desert Diamond Cup brings the excitement of Major League Soccer to our own back yard. Come see the Los Angeles Galaxy, the New York Red Bulls, the New England Revolution and Real Salt Lake as they duke it out

to see who goes home with the cup! For more information, go to <http://fctucson.com/teams.html>.





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